(b) in so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in diabetic patients

532. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of diabetic patients in the country is increasing rapidly;

(b) if so, their number in the year 1995 and their number at present;

(c) whether Government have ascertained the reasons for this increase;

(d) the steps taken and research conducted to control the disease; and

(e) other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) According to ICMR, the estimated number of diabetic patients in the country in 1995 was 19 million and 25 millions in the year 2000.

(c) There is epidemiological evidence showing increase in prevalence of diabetes particularly in the urban areas of the country which is probably because of ageing, unhealthy diets, obesity, sedentary lifestyle and better detection facilities.

(d) and (e) diabetes treatment is done at all levels in the rural health care delivery system and urban health care institutions. A pilot Project on "Strengthening of Bio-chemical Laboratories and Quality Assurance", was initiated in 1999-2000 in the States of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal & Punjab. The National diabetes Control Programme has now been merged with the Indian Council of Medical Research which has constituted as Expert Group to formulate a revised comprehensive plan of action to control diabetes. Central Health Education Bureau (CHEB) has also strategies/programme including use of powerful electronic media to spread health messages to increase Public Health awareness about diabetes.